

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 17276 102022Z

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TAGS: PFOR, UK, EG

SUBJECT: ATMOSPHERICS OF SADAT VISIT TO UK;
LONDON TIMES EDITORIAL

1. AMONG PLETHORA OF SPECULATIVE PRESS ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS OVER SADAT VISIT TO UK, WE BELIEVE EDITORIAL IN LONDON TIMES OF NOVEMBER 8 GENERALLY REFLECTS THE ESTABLISHMENT'S VIEW. SELECTED PORTIONS FOLLOW:

2. EDITORIAL STATES SADAT "WON OUR RESPECT BY SHOWING THAT HE COULD MAKE WAR, AT ANY RATE BETTER THAN ANY OF HIS RECENT ARAB PREDECESSORS, AND HE HAS SINCE WON OUR APPROVAL AND ADMIRATION BY SHOWING THAT HE CAN MAKE PEACE, OR AT ANY RATE MOVE FURTHER TOWARDS IT THAN ANY ARAB LEADER HAS DONE...IN OUR PRESENT STATE WE ARE PARTICULARLY GLAD TO BE VISITED BY A MAN WHO MIGHT HAVE SOME MONEY TO SPEND."

3. AFTER REFERRING TO NEEDS OF EGYPTIAN ECONOMY FOR SOME PRODUCTS FROM ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES, EDITORIAL CONTINUES THAT EGYPTIANS MIGHT LEARN TO MAKE OTHER SUCH PRODUCTS THEMSELVES, "WITH THE HELP OF BRITISH TECHNOLOGY AND BRITISH BUSINESS EXPERTISE. IF WE CAN HELP THE EGYPTIANS TO WEED OUT THEIR TANGLED BUREAUCRACY AND RE-

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PAGE 02 LONDON 17276 102022Z

PAIR THEIR DILAPIDATED ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE, THE MONEY

TO PAY US CAN CERTAINLY BE FOUND. IT IS PROBABLY NOT A COINCIDENCE THAT MR. SADAT'S VISIT WAS PRECEDED BY THAT OF PRINCE FAHD OF SAUDI ARABIA."

4. TURNING TO POLITICAL SIDE, EDITORIAL CONTINUES "THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BRITAIN AND EGYPT IS AFTER ALL A VERY OLD ONE, AND SHOULD ALSO BE A VERY DEEP ONE. PERHAPS IN THE 1930'S AND 1940'S IT WAS A LITTLE TOO DEEP FOR COMFORT. CERTAINLY BRITAIN OUTSTAYED HER WELCOME IN EGYPT AS A PROTECTING POWER, AND THE EXIGENCIES OF WORLD CONFLICT OBLIGED HER TO TREAT A SUPPOSEDLY INDEPENDENT EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT IN A REGRETTABLY UNDIGNIFIED MANNER.

5. "THAT TYPE OF RELATIONSHIP HAD TO END, AND PERHAPS IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT IT SHOULD END MESSILY, WITH TOO MUCH CHILDISH SPIKE ON BOTH SIDES. CERTAINLY COLONEL NASSER IN HIS EARLY YEARS SEEMED CHILDISHLY ANXIOUS TO HUMILIATE BRITAIN, AND COLONEL SADAT HIMSELF THEN DISPLAYED WHAT THE TIMES' CAIRO CORRESPONDENT DIAGNOSED AS 'A STREAK OF ALMOST PATHOLOGICAL HATRED OF BRITAIN AND THE BRITISH.' BUT THAT CAN HARDLY EXCUSE BRITAIN'S OWN CHILDISHNESS IN ATTEMPTING THE MILITARY REOCCUPATION OF THE CANAL ZONE IN OCTOBER, 1956. WE HAVE GROWN WISER AS WELL AS WEAKER SINCE THEN, AND EGYPT HAS GROWN WISER TOO. MOST EGYPTIANS WOULD NOW ADMIT THAT THE BRITISH IN THE PAST MADE GREAT AND POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EGYPT'S ECONOMY AND SOCIETY; AND THE EGYPTIAN LEADER WHO ONCE SEEMED TO HATE US PATHOLOGICALLY HAS COME AMONG US SEEKING FRIENDSHIP. WE TOO SHOULD RECOGNIZE HOW MUCH WE HAVE MISSED THESE LAST TWENTY YEARS BY OUR LOSS OF CONTACT WITH EGYPTIAN SOCIETY AND EGYPTIAN CULTURE, AND SEIZE THE CHANCE TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME."

RICHARDSON

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